Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph number [0096] with the following rewritten paragraph:

These results indicate that many neural precursor lineages respond similarly to the over-expression of c-myc. In addition to primary neural cultures prepared from nervous system tissues of mammals, recent advances in embryonic stem cell cultures indicate that various neural precursors form in vitro during differentiation of totipotential or pluripotent embryonic stem cells and cell lines maintained in culture for long term (Renoncourt et al., Mech. Dev. (1998) 78, 185; Svendsen et. al., Trends Neurosci. (1999) 22, 357; Brustle et. al., Science (1999) 285, 754.). These cultures can generate ~~nesting~~nestin-positive neural precursor cells which can then be transferred to serum-free medium and subsequently expanded with bFGF and/or EGF for short term. Long-term, mass expansion has not been feasible since the initial neural precursor formation is inefficient. However, by utilizing the genetic modification method with c-myc gene described here, those transient neural precursors may be turned into stable cell lines.